

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4-6, 10-17 and 27-30 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 7, and add Claim 31 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for encoding input motion-image data by using intra-frame coding and inter-frame coding, and encoding input still-image data as pictures for a predetermined period of time by using the same encoding method as the encoding method of the motion-image data, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive image data;

a rate control circuit configured to control a code amount in encoding, and to output a feedback signal when the amount of codes generated in encoding of the received image data is over a predetermined threshold value;

a resolution converting circuit configured to ~~receive motion-image data and still-image data, to convert the~~ reduce a resolution of the received motion-image data, and to refrain from converting the resolution of the received still-image data image data in response to receipt of the feedback signal;

a control-signal receiving unit configured to receive a still-image-recording control signal indicating that still-image recording rather than motion-image recording is to occur;

a still-image-recording control circuit controlling actuation of still-image recording in response to receipt of a still-image-recording control signal by said control-signal receiving unit and controlling actuation of said resolution converting circuit so as to cause

said resolution converting circuit to refrain from ~~converting~~ reducing the resolution of the received still-image image data;

a still-image-data memory unit configured to store the received image data as still-image data received by said resolution converting circuit in response to an instruction from said still-image-recording control circuit and continuously output the stored still-image data during a predetermined period;

a circuit having a switch that is controlled to provide the stored still-image data continuously received from the still-image-data memory unit in place of the motion-image received image data, in response to the instruction from the still-image-recording control circuit;

a quantization unit configured to quantize still-image data and motion-image data received from said circuit;

a control unit configured to control a quantization method in said quantization unit so that a quantization step becomes smaller than a quantization step for motion-image data when still-image data stored in said still-image-data memory unit is quantized; and

a motion compensation prediction unit configured to refrain from performing motion compensation performed at the time of encoding of the received image data during the predetermined period in response to the instruction from the still-image-recording control circuit;

an encoding unit configured to generate intra-frame coded data and inter-frame coded data from still-image data quantized by said quantization unit provided by said circuit, and generate from one still image, a plurality of groups of pictures in which each

group of pictures includes the intra-frame coded data and a plurality of the inter-frame coded data,

wherein said encoding unit generates the inter-frame coded data, which includes bi-directionally predictive frames, by encoding a difference between the input still-image data and predicted data converted from the generated intra-frame coded data and inter-frame coded data previously, and sets a start group of pictures among the generated plurality of groups of pictures as a closed group of pictures.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising: ~~a motion compensation prediction unit configured to perform motion compensation prediction for inter-frame coding on the motion-image data in response to the motion-image data being received by said input unit;~~

wherein said still-image-recording control circuit controls said motion compensation prediction unit so as to refrain from performing motion compensation and suppress or prohibit the occurrence of motion vectors in response to receipt of a still-image-recording control signal by said control-signal receiving unit indicating that still-image recording rather than motion-image recording is to occur.

8-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a recording unit configured to record the still-image data encoded by said encoding unit on a recording medium.

27-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said resolution converting circuit limits the high-frequency components of the received image data by using a spatial filter and reduces the number of pixels of the received image data by re-sampling, in response to receipt of the feedback signal by said rate control circuit.